



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Houseguest Pleads Guilty to Jewelry Heist from Columbia Hosts

A Columbia couple's former houseguest has been convicted of stealing \$18,000 worth of jewelry and coins from them. Christian R. Farr, 21, of Wolcott, N.Y. pleaded guilty to a single count of theft between \$10,000-\$100,000 in Howard County Circuit Court this morning.

According to police and prosecutors, Farr was a friend of the couple's son when he stayed with the family in their River Hill home last year. When one of the homeowners attempted to open his safe on February 25, 2017, he discovered that the key would not work, the lock was compromised and the door came open to reveal several items were missing. Among the items: a \$10,000 men's Rolex wristwatch; gold necklaces, bracelets, earrings and rings; gold and silver coins and a pair of 24-carat gold wedding rings.

Assistant State's Attorney Natasha Blount told the court that police recovered 30 of the gold jewelry pieces from a Laurel pawnshop where Farr pawned the items on February 9 and 16, 2017. The Rolex was never recovered.

Judge William V. Tucker set a March 29 sentencing date. Farr remains free on bond.

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